

MARVEL

THE NATIVITY

PART ONE

164

COSTA • BAGLEY • HANNA • ALMARA

VENOM



YEARS AGO, PETER PARKER (A.K.A. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN) ACCIDENTALLY BONDED WITH AN ALIEN BEING CALLED A SYMBIOTE. WHEN PETER REALIZED THE COSTUME WAS ACTUALLY AN AGGRESSIVE LIVING ORGANISM, HE REJECTED IT. BUT DURING THEIR TIME TOGETHER, THE SYMBIOTE HAD ACCESS TO SPIDER-MAN'S GENETIC CODE AND NOW GRANTS WHOMEVER IT BONDS WITH SKILLS SIMILAR TO HIS: WALL-CRAWLING, THE POWER TO GENERATE BIOORGANIC WEBBING AND UNIQUE ABILITIES TO SHAPE-SHIFT AND BECOME INVISIBLE, TURNING THEM INTO...

VENOM



THE NATIVITY PART ONE

EDDIE BROCK AND THE VENOM SYMBIOTE HAVE BEEN REUNITED! BUT THE SYMBIOTE'S UNPREDICTABILITY HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR EDDIE TO PROVE VENOM'S RENEWED HEROISM TO THE PUBLIC.

RECENTLY, JESSICA DREW A.K.A. SPIDER-WOMAN TRACKED VENOM DOWN AND SUBDUED THE WICKED WEBSLINGER! BUT THE SYMBIOTE SHOWED JESSICA A VISION WHICH CONVINCED HER TO RELEASE THEM AND GIVE VENOM A SECOND CHANCE TO DO GOOD.

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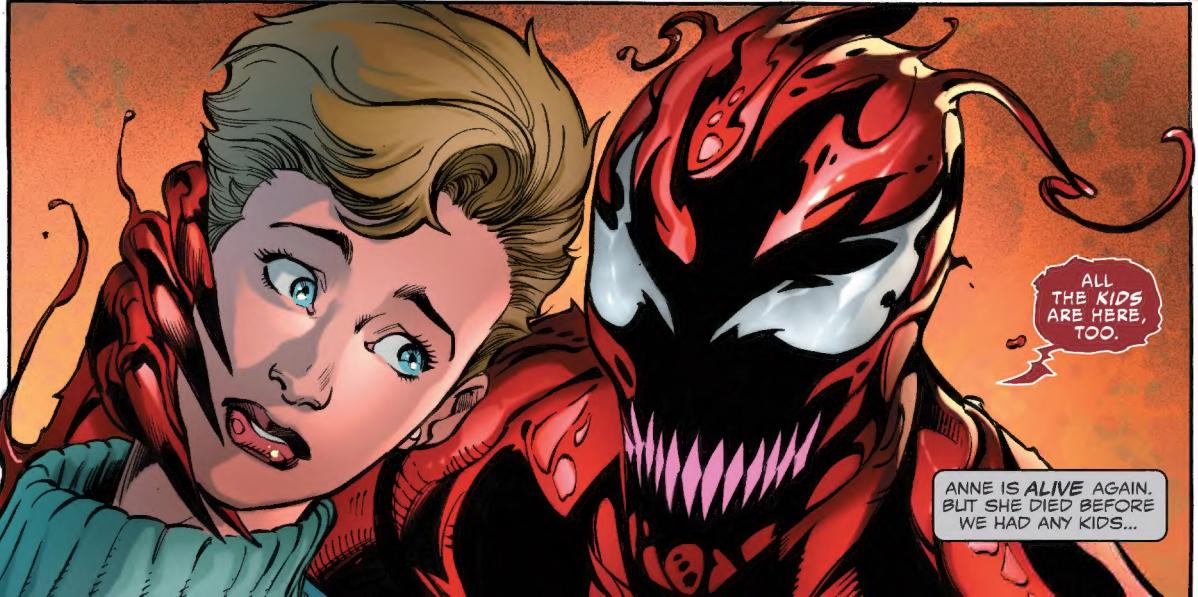
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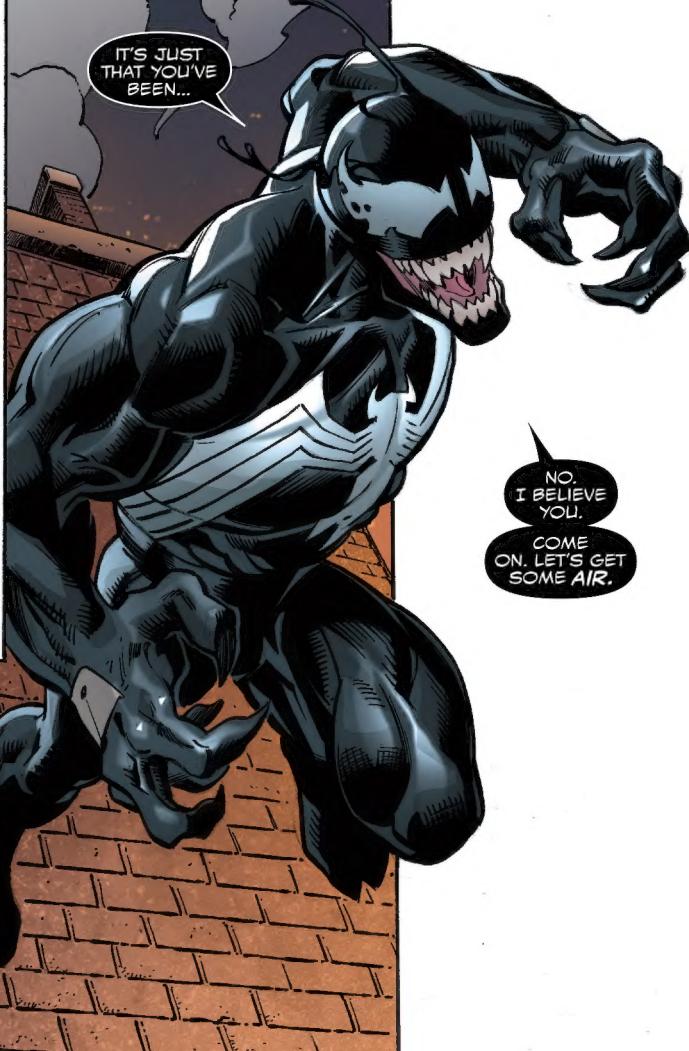
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THE
WHOLE FAMILY'S
HERE!

TOO
DANGEROUS.





I CAN LIQUEFY YOUR BRAINS WITH THESE VIBRATIONS! NOW GET THE JEWELS INTO THE BAG!



HOLY #\\$%!



YOU GOT A LEAKY AIR CONDITIONER OR--

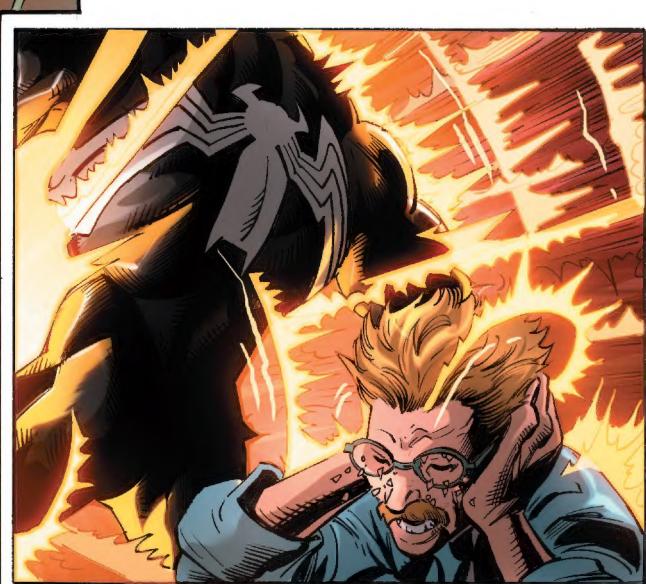


OH.









MUST GO!
KEEP SAFE!

STOP!
WHAT ARE
YOU--

WHAT...

DID
I JUST
WIN?

I
WON!

I DID
IT!!!



I DON'T
KNOW IF WE
CAN AFFORD
TO FEED
IT.

PLUS,
IT'S ALWAYS
WAILING.

SKREEEE!

BUT AT
LEAST IT HAS
YOUR SMI--

AIEEE!

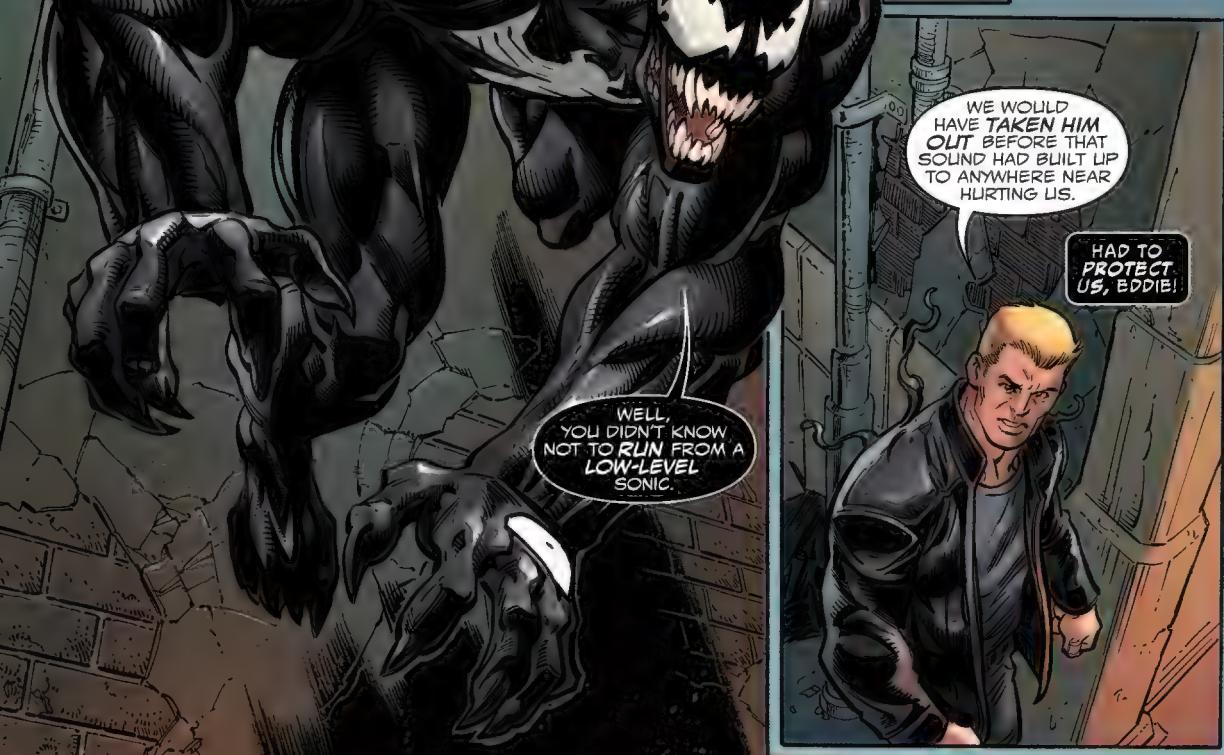


HERMAN SCHULTZ IS STUPID, EDDIE.

ALREADY CAUGHT BY POLICE.

THAT'S NOT THE POINT. YOU RAN AWAY, AND YOU POTENTIALLY ENDANGERED INNOCENT PEOPLE.

AND HOW DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME?



MOVE
N DAILY

AR
NE

"US"
MEANS
YOU AND ME.
YOU DON'T MAKE
UNILATERAL
DECISIONS.
IT
MAKES "US"
LESS
SAFE.

"US"
MEANS...

YOU AND
ME, YES,
YOU AND
ME. WHAT
I MEAN.

I CAN
FEEL...WHAT ARE
YOU AFRAID
OF?

WHY ARE
YOU ACTING SO
STRANGE?

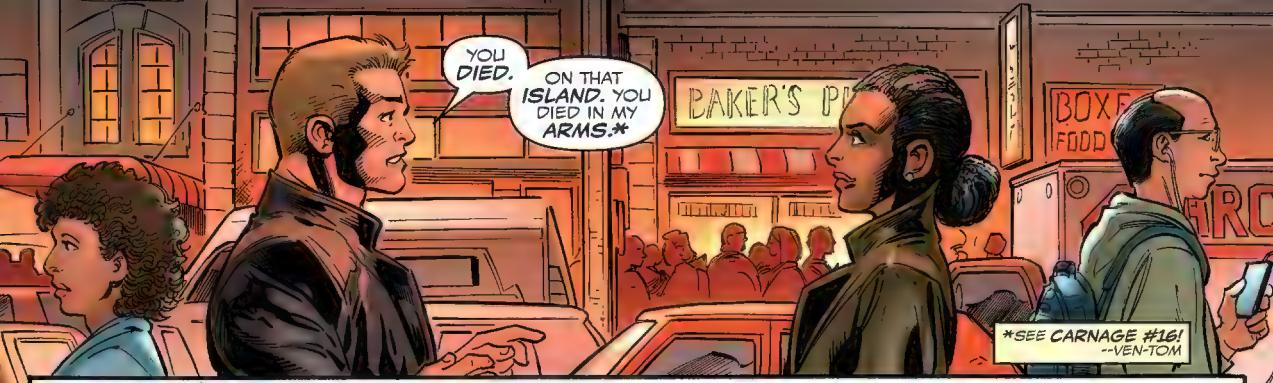
WE...

BROCK!

EDDIE
BROCK!









WHERE...?
WE HAVE LOST VISUAL ON THE TARGET. REPEAT--WE HAVE LOST VISUAL.



HE'S CAMOUFLAGED HIMSELF! SWITCH TO THERMALS!



NO! WE WILL NOT.

DIXON AND BROCK HAVE A HISTORY. WE WILL NOT HARM HER WHEN WE CAN FLEE.

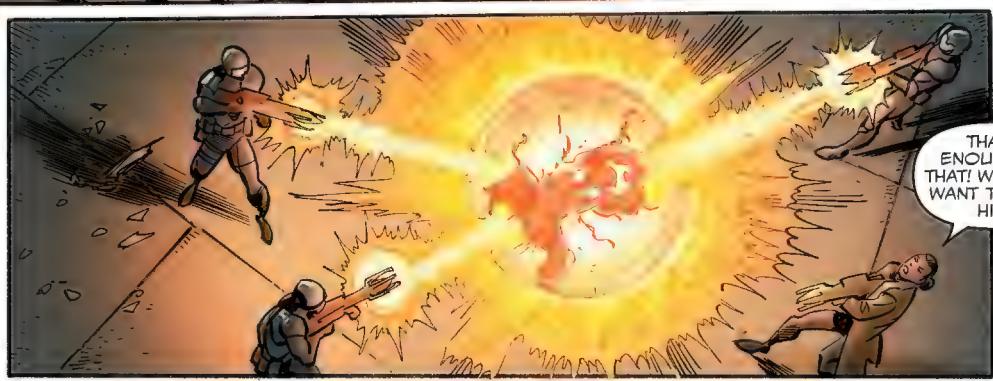
IF HE ESCAPES THIS BLOCK, WE MIGHT NEVER REACQUIRE HIM.

USE THE INCINERATORS. BLOW THE GAS TANKS ON THOSE CARS. WE NEED HIM CONTAINED.



MUST GET AWAY!

WE ARE
GETTING AWAY
THROUGH IS
AWAY.



THAT'S
ENOUGH OF
THAT! WE DON'T
WANT TO KILL
HIM.



DON'T
LET THAT
SYMBIOTE
TOUCH
YOU.



LET'S GET
HIM WRAPPED UP
AND **OUT** OF HERE
BEFORE ONE OF THE
5,000 COSTUMED
WACKOS IN THIS
CITY CRUISES
BY.



BROCK'S
STRONGER THAN
YOU THINK. GET THAT
COLLAR ON HIM
ASAP!



NO!



AAAAAHH!





Eddie's Clubhouse

SEND E-MAILS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

AT LONG LAST, the secret months in the making stands revealed: THE VENOM SYMBIOTE IS ABOUT TO SPAWN!

What does that mean for Venom, both Eddie Brock AND the symbiote? And can anything be done to prevent this new life-form from taking after Carnage, Scream and so many other symbiotic spawns of Venom's and leading a life of villainy?

If it's even a symbiote at all, that is...

The only way to find out is to keep reading, Venomaniacs!

EDITOR Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in print from Marvel HQ in the heart of New York!

As I write this, winter storm Quinn (hey, when'd we decide to start naming regular ol' storms, anyway?) is making its way across the Northeast, as this endless winter continues.

But as cold as it is outside, the comic shops are RED HOT if you're a Venom fan, because we've got not one, but TWO tremendous stories on sale RIGHT NOW!

Released alongside this very comics mag is VENOMIZED #1 from Cullen Bunn and Iban Coello! The epic conclusion to the saga that began with VENOMVERSE, VENOMIZED sees the Poisons arrive on Earth with an eye for consumption and conquest...if not total annihilation! There'll be more than one surprise along the way, so don't miss a single moment!



Hey, Eddie's Clubhouse!

Man, I've REALLY enjoyed reading the VENOM series since Eddie came back from the ashes. I've loved his stories since I was a kid. One of my favorite ones was "Truckstop of Doom!" in the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #25. "Truckstop" was actually the first time I was introduced to Venom. An artist actually drew me an exact copy of the panel where Venom said: "We're called Venom and we play by our rules." That's a special memory of mine from when I was going through a sad personal situation but VENOM

cheered me up. I loved how he was a super hero, had all of Spider-Man's powers and wore a black suit with the white spider logo.

You guys have pulled out all of the stops with this series. Great Job, Stupendous, Fantastic and Make Mine Marvel!

I have decided to keep subscribing for the rest of my life as long as Eddie is Venom (or if someone else that I like takes over). Thank you, and could you have Eddie team up with other heroes more often? Sandman is probably my favorite villain but I liked him more when he was a hero. Also, how about resurrecting Spidecide? Venom could team up with or fight Carrion, Dr. Doom, Red Skull, Carnage, Hobgoblin, Demogoblin, Scarecrow and others, too!

Also, my favorite costume is the original black suit Spidey (Besides his classic red-and-blue design). Could we see some "Untold Stories" of when Pete wore the symbiote? Last but not least—thanks for having Jessica Drew A.K.A. Spider-Woman in VENOM #161, too! I've collected the entirety of her most recent series! I've got to go but remember I support you all the way!

Chris K.

Hey, Chris! Thanks for reading, writing, and subscribing! You have no idea how great it is to hear from you and other readers like you who have been helped through tough times with books we publish here at the House of Ideas—brightening peoples' days is part of the reason we took these jobs in the first place! We hope you dig what's in store for Venom next, and be sure to tell your pals to follow your lead and subscribe!

Hey, guys—it's me again! I'm fighting off the flu at the moment but I just finished VENOM #162. I'm really enjoying the crossover between Venom and the original X-Men. It may not be a popular opinion but I especially enjoyed watching Eddie call out Jean and the others on their hypocrisy.

Though I found it odd in VENOM #161 when Eddie has a face-to-face with Jessica Drew about how he's changed. Then, we jump to #162 and Eddie claims that people don't ever change. What's up with that? Anyway, I'll write you guys back next week.

You all have a great day and keep up the hard work!

Jaremy "The Jerm" B.

Thanks for reading, and GET WELL SOON, GERM-Y!

As for people never changing, VENOM #161 takes place immediately after the epic AMAZING SPIDER-MAN/VENOM crossover "Venom Inc.," in which Eddie Brock and the symbiote were cured of a chemical imbalance in Eddie's bloodstream that was making the symbiote erratic. That cure is the change Venom's referring to in #161!

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Dear VENOM Team,

I just wanna say what an amazing job you're doing with Venom. I loved seeing his team-ups in "Venom Inc." and "Poison-X." Are there any other team-ups you're planning for the future?

Long-Time Fan,

Jason S.

Hey, Jason! Thanks for reading and for writing! If it's Venomlicious crossovers you're looking for, you can't get much better than VENOMIZED, a five-issue epic that starts this week! Be sure to tell your comic shop to add it to your pull list!

Beyond that, you'll just have to keep reading!

Hi there!

Long time Venom fan here! I've been growing up with Venom since the '90s and I've loved his transformation from typical Spidey villain to antihero. I also enjoy the huge "family" of symbiotes that's grown throughout the comics. I've loved the portrayal of Flash Thompson. Getting to see his rebirth as Agent Anti-Venom is a fun idea with a lot of potential. I'm excited for the Venom movie as well and can't wait to find out if any of the possible story arcs for the film that are being tossed around the rumor mill turn out to be true.

Thanks again for all the awesome work with one of my favorites, if not, my favorite Marvel character. I picked up VENOM #161 today and can't wait to read it. Lastly, I would love to see more chapters in the VENOMVERSE or EDGE OF VENOMVERSE stories since that was also a wildly interesting concept to me.

Who is to say we couldn't see some of these Venom heroes in their own spin-offs? Maybe that's just wishful thinking on my end.

Much love, you guys!

Austin D.

Thanks for reading, Austin, and for the kind words! I've got good news for you, too: VENOMIZED exists and is ON SALE RIGHT NOW!!! AHHHH WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?! GO GET IT! PUT THIS COMIC BOOK DOWN RIGHT NOW AND GO BACK TO THE COMIC SH--

Okay, Austin's probably gone now, so I can stop yelling at him.

That's all the space we've got for this one, readers! Be back in TWO WEEKS for VENOM #165!

Stay sharp!

Devin

@edevinlewis

NEXT:



ON SALE IN TWO WEEKS!

DON'T MISS THE ADVENTURE THAT SETS UP THE FALL'S EPIC VENOM SAGA, **TRUE BELIEVERS!** IN THE MEANTIME, BE SURE TO WRITE TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM AND LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING -- MARK YOUR LETTERS "OKAY TO PRINT"!



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